

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 29, 2003. Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 31-34 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-9, 15-26, 28, and 30 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 23, 30, 31, 33, and 34 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5), stating that in Figure 10, reference S202, is not mentioned in the specification. Applicant has amended the specification, as shown above, to include reference S202 and therefore request withdrawal of this objection.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-21, 23-28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,559,933 (Boswell), and rejected Claims 7, 14, 22, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Boswell in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 (Kraslavsky et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 23, and 30, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Boswell at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for instructing each of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to print requests from the plurality of terminal devices. The apparatus specifies a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with print requests from the

plurality of terminal devices and instructs the specified terminal device to transfer the image information to a printer. The apparatus also manages record information of the printing performed by each of the plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

One notable feature of Claim 1 is managing the record information of the printing performed by each of a plurality of terminal devices according to an instruction, at an information processing apparatus. An information processing apparatus having this feature and the other features as recited in Claim 1, can efficiently manage the recording of the printing performed by each of a plurality of terminal devices. By doing so, the record information can be taken efficiently while maintaining the load mitigation of the information processing apparatus which transmits image information held at a terminal device to a printing apparatus.

Boswell, as understood by Applicant, relates to a distributed enterprise print controller. In Boswell, a computer transfers a print file to another computer connected to a system (see, e.g., column 13, lines 19-31). Applicant submits, however, that nothing has been found in this section of Boswell, or any other section, that would teach or suggest managing the record information of the printing performed by each of a plurality of terminal devices according to an instruction.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that, at least for this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over Boswell.

Independent Claims 8, 15, 16, 23, and 30 include the same feature of managing the record information of the printing performed by each of a plurality of terminal devices according to an instruction, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 8, 15, 16, 23, and 30 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

New Claims 31-34 are allowable over the cited prior art at least because they include the feature that each of the plurality of terminal devices controls a display device so as to display a list of print orders to which thumbnail images are added.

A review of the other art of record, including Kraslavsky et al., has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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